

Property of
Sirius E. Rasmussen Library
University of Alaska Fairbanks

University of Alaska Southeast

The Whalesong

Volume 22, Issue 8

February 20, 2001

INSIDE: News on Napster p.3 Preview p.11
In an instant...an accident gives a new look on life p.6

Just for the record: announcements from the Office of Records and Registration

Lori Exferd
Whalesong Contributor

Plan Ahead:

On March 2, UAS Records and Registration, Financial Aid and Business Services (cashier/bookstore) will be receiving a new upgrade to their student information system. The installation of this new system may take five working days, so regular services provided by these departments may be reduced during that time. If you need a copy of your schedule, billing information, financial aid verifications or an official or unofficial transcript, please make your request by February 28 so we can process your paperwork. We thank you for your patience.

Spring classes:

UAS still has a number of short courses available between now and the end of the semester. These one-credit courses are

continued on page 2

Student Government changes abound Lobbying and special elections start the year off

Seneca Theno
Whalesong Staff

Changes are running rampant in the Juneau campus student government office. Early in February, USUAS-JC hosted student government bodies from around the state during an annual legislative conference. The students learned lobbying purposes and techniques, and spent time on "the Hill" with state legislators. During the conference, the students actively lobbied for the university, both local campuses and the state-wide system. Several bills currently being considered are important to UA and students, including money for the Juneau campus to continue the Egan Library expansion, and issues regarding State of Alaska student loans. "This conference is one of the most important for our student government," says USUAS-JC President Tia Anderson, who was encouraged by the large turnout and general excitement surrounding the event.

The student government election held Feb. 6 and 7 resulted in several new appointments. Jamie Atkinson and Nikki Houghes were elected to fill the Senate seats left open by Josh Reyes and Tyler Bishop. Suzan Bryson was nominated to replace Josh Horst as the Student Regent. Her nomination will need to be confirmed by Gov. Tony Knowles to be finalized. Matt Wood and Shannon Kempton were both nominated for the position of Student Commissioner for the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, and one will be confirmed by Gov. Knowles.

Katheryn Currit recently took over the position of Student Government Vice-President after Amber Timothy resigned for personal reasons. Mark Graves was then elected by student government members to replace Currit as Senate Pro Temp, who assumes the responsibilities of the Vice-President if she is absent and is responsible for meetings if both the President and Vice-President are absent.

Student government has changed its meeting times to every Friday from 11:30 to 12:30 in the Mourant Conference Room (meetings were previously held from 10 to noon every other Friday). Students are encouraged to attend.

University of California President urges system to drop SAT as condition of admission

Becky Bartindale
Knight-Ridder Tribune

SAN JOSE, Calif. — In a move bound to reverberate across the country, University of California President Richard Atkinson is urging the system to drop the controversial SAT I test as a condition of admission to the university and replace it with tests that better measure what students have learned in high school.

Atkinson's proposal would make the 180,000-student University of California the first large system in the nation to reject the test that long has been seen as the key to the nation's most prestigious colleges. UC is now one of the biggest users of the SAT exams.

Scores of small, liberal arts schools have dropped the SAT as an admission requirement in recent years but ambitious high school seniors continue to pin their hopes for a big-name school on a high score on the college entrance exam. Any large-scale rejection of the test would be a blow to the multi-million dollar test preparation industry that has grown up around the country's preoccupation with the test.

Atkinson had planned to unveil his proposal Sunday in a speech at the annual meeting of the American Council on Education in Washington, D.C. but word leaked out Friday.

"These changes will help all students, especially low-income and minority students, determine their own educational destinies," he says in the text of his speech, released Friday. Atkinson's proposal comes in a year when regents are expected to reconsider their 1995 ban on the use of affirmative action in employment and admissions. The university saw minority applications plunge after the ban, which was reinforced by voter-approved Proposition 209 in 1996. It has struggled since then to find a legal admission strategy to draw more Latino and black students to the elite

continued on page 2

ALASKA
PER
LH
1
U54
W42
N. 22
no. 8
Feb. 2001

RECORDS from page 1

great skill builders and credit add-ons. Stop by the Records and Registration office for information on late-starting classes.

Last Day to Withdraw:

If you are taking courses that do not last the full semester, please refer to your syllabus or the Records and Registration office for the last day to withdraw. For full semester courses, the last day to withdraw is April 13. While that may seem like a long way away, please meet with your instructor or adviser now if you are experiencing difficulties in any of your classes.

Spring Graduation:

Applications for spring graduation are due by March 1 to the Records and Registration office. Spring commencement ceremonies will be held for the Juneau campus on May 6 at Centennial Hall. We encourage all spring graduates to participate in the ceremony. Caps, gowns, and graduation announcements can be purchased at the UAS Bookstore. Please visit the bookstore early to take care of all of the arrangements. The Registrar's office will contact spring graduates in March and April regarding the details of the ceremony.

Summer and Fall Registrations:

Registration for summer and fall classes begins on April 16. The Summer 2001 and Preliminary Fall 2001 schedule will arrive on campus the first week of April. For a sneak peak at what's being offered, check out the UAS website the last week of March. Be sure to register early, as classes are filling faster and faster!

CALIFORNIA SAT from page 1

system.

This is the second time faculty have been asked to consider dropping SAT I as an admissions requirement. The earlier effort never reached the Board of Regents.

The president also has asked the UC system's Academic Senate to consider replacing the "narrowly defined quantitative formulas," based in part on SAT scores, now used to admit most students with a more comprehensive, "fairer" admissions system that considers all of a student's accomplishments. Eventually such a proposed change would have to be approved by the regents. If it were accepted, the change probably could not be put into place before the fall of 2003.

Education experts and civil rights advocates hailed the president's plan as a positive step. The same groups have long criticized the multiple-choice SAT as biased because it measured a student's general knowledge rather than what they have learned in class.

While originally intended as a way to level the playing field, "it's become the opposite," said Maria Blanco, regional counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, one of the groups that is suing UC Berkeley over its admission practices. "It keeps out very qualified kids who have overcome obstacles but don't test very well. The over-reliance on the SAT I scores has turned into a barrier to students of color."

Whites and Asian-Americans generally score considerably higher on the SAT than Latinos and blacks.

It's a wonderful move to drop the SAT requirement, Blanco said. But if the university

replaces one standardized test with another without finding ways to evaluate the complete person, "then I'm not convinced it will really make a difference," she said.

University officials acknowledge their own data shows the SAT I is not the best predictor of success in college.

"Generally we find that high school grades are the best predictor of performance at the

"It keeps out very qualified kids who have overcome obstacles but don't test very well. The over-reliance on the SAT I scores has turned into a barrier to students of color."

- Maria Blanco, Mexican American Legal Defense Fund

university," spokesman Brad Hayward said. That is especially true when combined with performance on tests such as the SAT IIs, which assess students' grasp of course work in subjects ranging from English to math.

Until a replacement test is developed for the SAT I, Atkinson proposed to continue using the SAT II exams in admissions decisions.

Currently 50-75 percent of the students admitted to a UC campus are admitted solely on the basis of a formula that includes their high school grades, the SAT and their SAT II scores. But Atkinson characterized SAT I as measuring "undefined notions of 'aptitude' or 'intelligence.'"

The president said his proposed changes would not result in "earth-shaking changes" about who gets into the UC system.

But instead of focusing so much effort on the big test, he said he hopes students would instead concentrate on mastering their high school

curriculum. Shifting the focus in this way, he said, would complement public school reform efforts already under way.

"This is a good thing," said Gerald Hayward, a co-director of the university-based think tank, PACE.

The SAT II "will reflect more clearly what students know and how well they will do in school," he said. "It also ought to help students to take their high school courses more seriously."

In his speech, Atkinson tells how his longtime worries about the fairness of the SAT came to a head last year during a visit to a classroom of 12-year-olds at an unnamed, upscale private school. After watching the students drill on verbal analogies, he learned they spent hours every month boning up for the SAT, even though the test was years away.

"What I saw was disturbing and prompted me to spend time taking sample SAT tests and reviewing the literature," he wrote. "I concluded what many others have concluded, that America's overemphasis on the SAT is compromising our educational system."

Too much valuable learning time is wasted teaching to the test, he said.

"Anyone involved in education should be concerned about how overemphasis on the SAT is distorting educational priorities and practices, how the test is perceived by many as unfair and how it can have a devastating impact on the self-esteem and aspiration of young students," Atkinson said.

Student Regent Justin Fong, a graduate student at UCLA, said students have called for many years for eliminating the SAT because they know it is unfair. "Many of us have friends from high school who we know are very smart but didn't get in," he said.

What to do this summer? Catch up on credits or explore a new area in UAS English courses

Emily Wall
Whalesong Contributor

Interested in taking an English Course at UAS this summer? The following courses will be offered Summer 2001. Classes begin May 21 and end July 17.

-ENG 218/418: Contemporary American Poetry (TH 11:00-1:45 p.m.)

-ENG 211: Inter. Comp. w/ Modes of Literature (GER) (MW11:10-1:55)

-ENG 111: Methods of Written Communication (GER) (MW8:30-10:50)

-ENG 110: Basic Writing (MWF 8:30-10:50 am)

Questions?

Emily Wall: 465-6407 or email to emily.wall@uas.alaska.edu
Office: Soboleff 230

Napster says it's working on tracking its songs

Dawn C. Chmielewski
Knight-Ridder Tribune

With its future in doubt, Napster launched a major public relations offensive Friday, announcing that it has moved a step closer to converting its phenomenally popular free online music exchange to a paid subscription service.

whether that order will hobble or shut down the file-sharing service born in the dorm room of then-college student Shawn Fanning.

Peter Jaszi, a copyright attorney who teaches law at American University, said Napster appears to be trying to influence the courts by showing good-faith efforts to pay the

conglomerate, also invested money in Napster to convert it to a pay service.

The technology isn't just for new music released in a protective digital-rights-management wrapper. It's intended to work on the billions of songs already on Napster user's hard drives, said Arni Sigurdsson, chief operating officer. He wouldn't say how that would be accomplished.

"It's like we're trying to put the genie back into the bottle," said Trish Naudon, executive marketing director for Digital World Services.

For now, the revolutionary technology Napster promises doesn't exist and won't be put in place until sometime this summer when the pay service is launched, according to sources close to Napster.

At least one record-industry official seemed unimpressed.

"Isn't it remarkable, as of Sunday they had no ability to do this, whatsoever. They must have worked overtime," said Howard King, a Los Angeles attorney who represented the heavy-metal band Metallica in an earlier suit against Napster.

King said Napster's belated attempts to compensate artists for their works does nothing to

Napster said it hired a company to develop digital rights management technology, capable of tracking millions of copyrighted songs as they leap from computer hard drive to computer hard drive, an essential first step toward paying music royalties. The technology won't likely be deployed until this summer.

"This solution is further evidence of the seriousness of our effort to reach an agreement with the record companies that will keep Napster running," said Napster interim chief executive Hank Barry in a statement.

The announcement appears timed to influence U.S. District Court Judge Marilyn H. Patel, who is expected to issue a new order that would halt the exchange of copyrighted songs on Napster. Five major record labels sued Napster in December for copyright infringement, seeking to stop what they saw as wholesale theft of music.

On Monday, a federal appeals court in San Francisco sent the case back to Patel, ordering her to stop millions of Napster users from trading copyrighted songs. It's unclear

record companies, musicians and songwriters whose songs are exchanged on the free service.

"If what they have in mind turns out to be a reasonable solution ... or part of a reasonable solution to policing the service ... there is somewhat more possibility that Judge Patel will say, 'Go on and do what you're doing,' rather than set some requirements that would be more difficult for Napster to satisfy," Jaszi said.

The courts aren't the only audience Napster hopes to win over with this announcement. Jaszi said Napster might be attempting to prod along negotiations with record labels for the rights to distribute their content on Napster.

Indeed, Napster said its new rights-management technology, developed by Bertelsmann subsidiary Digital World Services, would give record companies control over how Napster's 63 million use MP3 music files, even to the point of preventing them from burning music onto CDs. Bertelsmann, the German

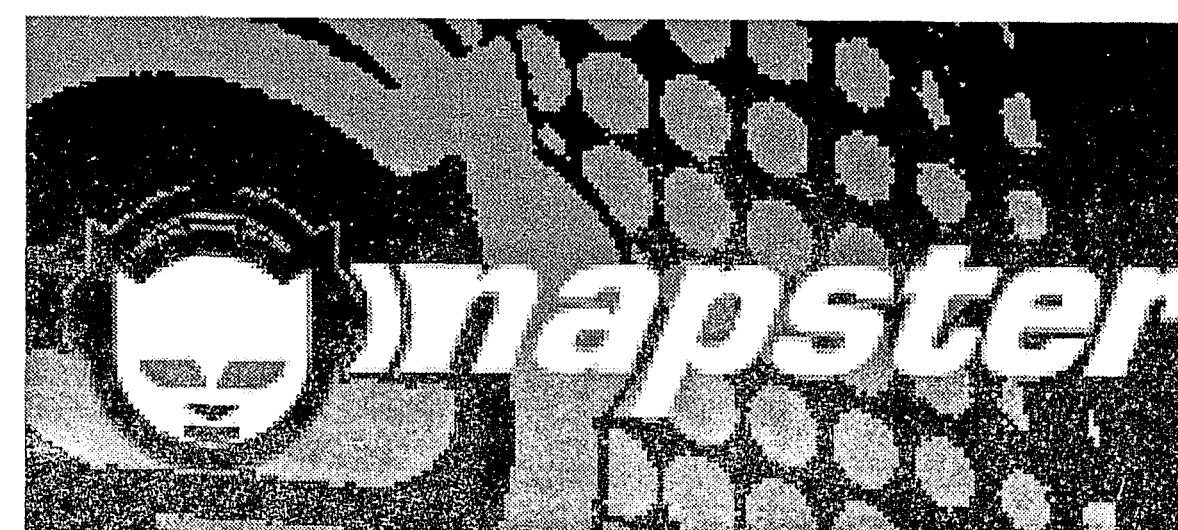


Photo courtesy of Napster
Shawn Fanning, Napster creator, and Hank Barry speak about the court decision

Five major record labels sued Napster in December for copyright infringement, seeking to stop what they saw as wholesale theft of music.



UAS receives Tesoro Alaska donation

Scott Foster
UAS press release

The University of Alaska Southeast has received more than \$66,000 as part of a \$200,000 donation by Tesoro Alaska to the University of Alaska.

UA President Mark Hamilton distributed the unrestricted gift equally between UAS, the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

UAS Chancellor John Pugh said, "A gift this size demonstrates Tesoro's commitment to education in our state. The donation gives UAS the opportunity to bring new levels of excellence to our programs."

Pugh also said that unrestricted gifts, such as the Tesoro donation, give the university flexibility, "most often for projects where state funding is simply unavailable."

Tesoro Alaska has 142 stations across Alaska including Juneau, Auke Bay, Ketchikan, and Haines.

Jinny Zutz, public relations administrator, said, "Tesoro Alaska's new slogan for this year is 'Our Future is Now,' and we invest in our future by supporting Alaska's high school and college students."

Zutz said the donation to the university was unrestricted as to its use because "The university has done such a good job in the past and they would know better where this money should be spent."

Sitka campus director resigns UAS diesel program advances

Scott Foster
UAS press release

Dr. John Carnegie, director of the University of Alaska Southeast Sitka campus, has submitted his resignation effective at the end of the fiscal year. UAS Chancellor John Pugh will begin a process to name a replacement.

Carnegie said in his resignation letter, "I do not have the energy and stamina to continue." He described his decision as a quality-of-life issue. After a rest, Carnegie plans to return to his primary interest in environmental technology.

"We'll probably leave Sitka after my resignation takes effect," Carnegie said. "That's health and family related." He offered to adjust the specific time of his departure to best meet the needs of UAS and a new director.

"I respect John's decision to seek a change of pace in his life," Chancellor Pugh said. "Under his leadership, the existing strengths of the UAS Sitka campus have increased. John brought vision, expertise and hard work to his position. He will be difficult to replace."

Questia offers new services for students online

Questia Service

Houston, TX (January 22, 2001)- Students now have access to an extensive online collection of scholarly books with a set of research and writing tools that will enable them to write quality research papers faster and easier. Today, Houston-based Questia Media, Inc., launched the service that, for the first time, offers students worldwide, access to a large collection of quality, credible content online to research and compose papers 24/7. The service enables subscribers to read the full-text of hyperlinked sources; automatically create footnotes and bibliographies; provides instant access to an online dictionary, thesaurus and encyclopedia; allows users to personalize text with highlighting and margin notes; and to save papers online so they can access them from anywhere, at anytime. With the Questia service, students will be able to do research and write their papers from the comfort of their home or dorm rooms, eliminating the frustration of checked-out books and the hassle and expense of photocopying.

The Questia service has more than 30,000 titles in the humanities and social sciences disciplines and will grow to 50,000 titles within the next month. The company plans to further expand the service to about 250,000 titles in 2003. Users are able to search the service's entire collection for free, but a subscription fee is required to read the full-text of books and to use the set of research and writing tools.

Benefits to Students

"Students and faculty around the world have been frustrated by the fact that quality content, such as what is found in a library, is simply not available online today. Simply put, before today the Internet has not effectively helped students in their research," said Troy Williams, CEO and founder of Questia Media,

Inc. "Starting today, the Questia service changes that. Most of this content has never been available online and much of it is available in print form only to a limited number of people with access to the best libraries. We believe that by providing students with twenty-four hour, unlimited delving into their topics, consulting a wider array of resources, and formulating and articulating a thesis or argument. The service eliminates many of the unproductive and frustrating aspects currently associated with the paper writing process."

The Genesis of Questia

The need for an extensive online collection of humanities and social sciences titles became apparent to Williams while at Harvard Law School where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. He realized that although

Scott Foster
UAS press release

A state-of-the-art electronic diesel engine has just arrived at UAS and will be used immediately by students in career education classes. "This is current technology being produced on the assembly lines today and going out in the latest products," according to UAS diesel instructor Chuck Craig.

"What this means," he said, "is that there is nothing down south that is any more modern than what we have in Juneau now."

The Caterpillar diesel engine, that arrived February 15, was purchased by UAS through funding from the University of Alaska President's Office. The engine will be used by students in diesel engine or fuel system classes. High school students taking the introduction to diesel class will also have access to the new computer controlled engine.

"Training on the latest engine puts students in a more competitive position in the marketplace," Craig said. "What this means is we now have older technology that is prevalent and the newest technology that is just emerging. We have the best of both worlds."

Craig, an assistant professor of diesel/hydraulics, was named Alaska Professor of the Year by two national organizations in

W.W. Norton and Company, Pearson PLC, Greenwood Publishing Group, and Perseus Books Group.

Views from Faculty

A team of 10 professional librarians on staff have built the Questia collection using both traditional library collection development techniques and innovative methods to ensure proper representation of all major humanities and social sciences disciplines and to create the most useful collection for undergraduates possible.

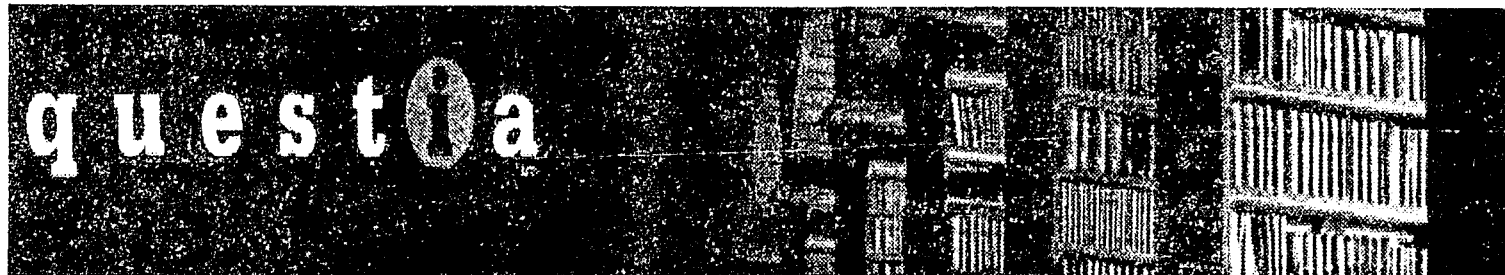
University and college faculty are supportive of the Questia service and view it as a great complement to traditional campus resources and a tool that enables students to do research in the manner they find most convenient-online. "A one-stop service is something students will appreciate - Questia is a time saver and will enable students to consistently use credible information sources," says Harold Gouzoules, psychology professor at Emory University. "Students are going to say eureka!" "Questia is a wonderful complement, extending our

collection to texts that may be out-of-print or checked-out of our library," said University of Texas at Arlington librarian Tom Wilding.

A three-tier subscription model provides flexibility for subscribers: annually for \$149.95, monthly for \$19.95, and short-term (48-hours) for \$14.95.

About Questia

Founded in 1998, Questia Media, Inc. created the first online service to provide unlimited access to the full text of an extensive collection of books, as well as writing tools to easily use this information. For millions of college students and researchers, the Questia service will enable them to efficiently research and compose papers at any time, from every connected corner of the world. Based in Houston with approximately 300 employees, and offices in New York and Los Angeles, Questia is delivering on the true promise of the Internet by providing access to a wealth of human knowledge. Visit www.questia.com for more information.



The Whalesong

The student voice
of UAS

Editor-in-Chief
Seneca Theno

Advertising Manager
M.J. Booth

Production Manager
Amelia Jenkins

Staff Writers
Tyler Bishop
Wilson Walz
Summer J. Dorr Murray
Janeen Russell

Adviser
Kirk McAllister

Technical Consultant
Dave Kleinpeter

Printing
Golden North Printers

Whalesong Artwork
John Attebury
Sarah Asper-Smith



E-mail: jywhale@uas.alaska.edu
Online Edition: Coming Soon!
Mail: *The Whalesong*
11120 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801
Newsroom: 102 Mourant Bldg.
Phone: (907) 465-6434
Fax: (907) 465-6399

The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, *The Whalesong*, is a free bi-weekly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The *Whalesong's* primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members.

The *Whalesong* will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas.

The staff of *The Whalesong* values freedom of expression and encourages reader response. The *Whalesong* editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

Waiver asks you to sign your life away (literally)

Seneca Theno
Whalesong Editor

Things are different today than they used to be. Life is different: faster, busier, more technologically and less human dependent; we've heard the arguments again and again. Whether you agree or not, one change is obvious: people feel more freedom to sue others today than they've ever exhibited before. Not sure if you want to go there? Remember the McDonald's lady and the hot coffee? How about the smokers and tobacco companies? Or the successful wrongful death suit against O.J.? Still need some more? Recall a recent airline accident? You can bet that company's in a suit right now. Been driving lately? Then maybe you'll remember the problems Firestone tires has been having with the enraged public. If you still aren't shaking your head in solemn recognition, then I offer this last little tidbit: little town full of sick people sues big polluting company... sexy fake lawyer lady... Julia Roberts... Erin Brockovich (if I don't have you now, it's hopeless)!

I offer these examples not to make value judgments, but merely to express the abundance of individuals willing to take that road. Sometimes it's completely valid, and sometimes the frustration of it makes you want to jump off the boat labeled "Human Race" (...lady, it's supposed to be hot). What is the result of this increase in both individual and class-action (large group) lawsuits? Fear. Upside-down, inside-out, around-the-corner, any-way-you-look-at-it, hardcore, gut-wrenching fear of bad publicity, public retaliation, loss of sponsors, loss of profit, being tied up in the court systems, long-term consequences, you name it, they're afraid. And we know they should be, because monetary awards are growing faster than those laboratory-cloned sheep.

If you're wondering what on earth this has to do with you, I'm getting there. The whole UA system offers physical education and outdoor recreation courses which are great (you can get credit for everything from downhill-backcountry-tree scratching-bushwhacking-pure hell snowboarding trips to yoga), and I think the University is really proud of the unique hands-on in-depth experiences it can offer its students. It seemed like a match made in heaven: the students were having fun, the University was making money, the activities were gathering followers, local businesses were selling equipment, doctors were seeing healthier, more

active patients... and then an accident. A big accident. A couple students were killed and several students and the instructors were injured in a big climbing fall during an outdoor recreation class in Anchorage. If you weren't around when it happened, you can imagine what happened next: a completely convincing session of the blame game.

It really doesn't matter now who or what caused the fall, was responsible for the incident, shouldered the blame, and so on. What matters (for this story) is that UAA got the pants sued off of it, and we now have a new-and-improved version of the dreaded LIABILITY WAIVER. Every student who takes a physical education or outdoor recreation class at any UA school is required to sign this liability waiver as a condition of participating in the class. Don't want to sign it? Oh, that's no problem, just don't take the class. The optimists out there are probably thinking, "I'm sure it's no big deal, the university just wants to prevent frivolous lawsuits from people who sprain their ankle while skiing" or something along those lines. Which leads me to the question: Have you READ this thing??

The title reads, "Agreement to release all claims for injury or death to me and to protect the university and others from any such claims which may be brought." Not too bad so far, let's look closer. "I do hereby voluntarily assume all risks, dangers and hazards which I may encounter during my participation in, and transportation to, from or as part of, the activity or course." Okay, still nothing we haven't really heard before. Now let's get to the nasty part. "Further, in consideration of being permitted to participate, I hereby agree to release the University of Alaska [and related parties]... from all liability and claims of any kind, including claims for loss, expense, damages, punitive damages or attorney fees, which may arise on account of personal injury to me or death, including emotional distress to me or loss of companionship or support to my family... This release applies even if my injury or death is caused by the NEGLIGENCE, GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR RECKLESSNESS of released parties." (I added the emphasis). Do you

know what that means? In common technical terms, us little people are screwed. This means that, "regardless of cause or fault," the University and any of its affiliated parties are completely not responsible for injury or death THAT THEY MAY CAUSE. You are probably imagining all sorts of nasty circumstances. Odds are they are protected by this waiver. Teacher driving drunk on the way to an outing? No liability. Teacher taking you up the super advanced ice-climbing route on your first trip? No liability. Teacher tells you to put on your skis and head off that a way, and you go flying right off the cliff? No liability. Regardless of the extremity of the situation, if it is ruled to be negligence, gross negligence, or recklessness (as opposed to something worse like completely intentional attempted homicide), the university AND the individual are home free.

But if you think it can't get any worse, let me introduce you to the next paragraph of this friendly little waiver. "Further, I promise to indemnify and hold harmless the University of Alaska, and pay its costs of defense, if claims are brought by me or anyone else against any of the released parties to recover money damages related to injuries or death to me. This promise applies even if my injury or death is caused by the negligence, gross negligence or recklessness of released parties... I intend that this agreement is and will be binding on my family, estate, heirs, successors, assigns, insurers, medical providers and personal representatives." This means that no one I've ever talked to or ever will can even think about bringing charges against any of those released parties, and if they do, whether I'm alive or not, I agree to pay (or have my estate pay) for the university's or the released individual's defense fees. Can you believe that???

The point of this article is not to strike fear in the hearts of outdoor enthusiasts, or to criticize the university for wanting to protect itself from those crazed, litigation-hungry students and their relatives. The point, rather, is to draw attention to the extreme nature that such waivers are invoking, and to encourage thought on what is necessary, what is unnecessary, what is a violation of individual rights, and what is just plain ridiculous.

Enter to WIN! The Whalesong's
"What I did on my SPRING BREAK"
Story Contest
-Go and have fun! -Write about it!
-Submit your story to the Whalesong.
-If your story is chosen you WIN!
Watch for more details in the next issue.
For more information contact us at 465-6434 or in room 102 in the Mourant building or at jywhale@uas.alaska.edu

Letters to the Editor

The *Whalesong* gladly accepts letters to the editor. Letters may not exceed 300 words, and may be edited for length, clarity, grammar, and taste. Letters must be signed and include a means of contact for verification. Send your letters to 11120 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801, jywhale@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Mourant Bldg.

Hey Grad... Don't Forget!
Order your graduation items by March 9th at
The UAS Bookstore
SEE DISPLAY IN MOURANT CAFETERIA.
Bookstore hours: **Monday-Friday, 8p.m-5p.m.**
Phone: **465-6401**

In an instant: an accident forges a new lease on life

Lola Savagty
Whalesong Contributor

That's how fast it happens, the thing that can change how you look at everything. In an instant you can go from a happy-go-lucky person behind the

“
I can't shut my eyes
without seeing it
happen. I can't get
that sick feeling out of
my stomach...But it all
happened, and it
happened so quickly,
in fact, it happened in
an instant.”

wheel, to being flipped on your side and knocked out. In an instant, you can lose all control of everything you thought you had hold of. Yet, in an instant, I was given another chance.

I wish I could say it was no big deal, that every one gets in accidents and just goes on with their lives. But I can't get this out of my

head. Do I now believe that seatbelts save lives...YES. Do I think that Range Rover makes the strongest cars possible...oh definitely. Do I wish it had never happened...I positively do. I can't shut my eyes without seeing it happen. I can't get that sick feeling out of my stomach. I can't figure out how to not feel guilty about wrecking my husband's car. But it all happened, and it happened so quickly, in fact, it happened in an instant.

The road was fine, the car was fine, and I was fine, and then in an instant all that was gone. Except me, I was left wondering why...how...

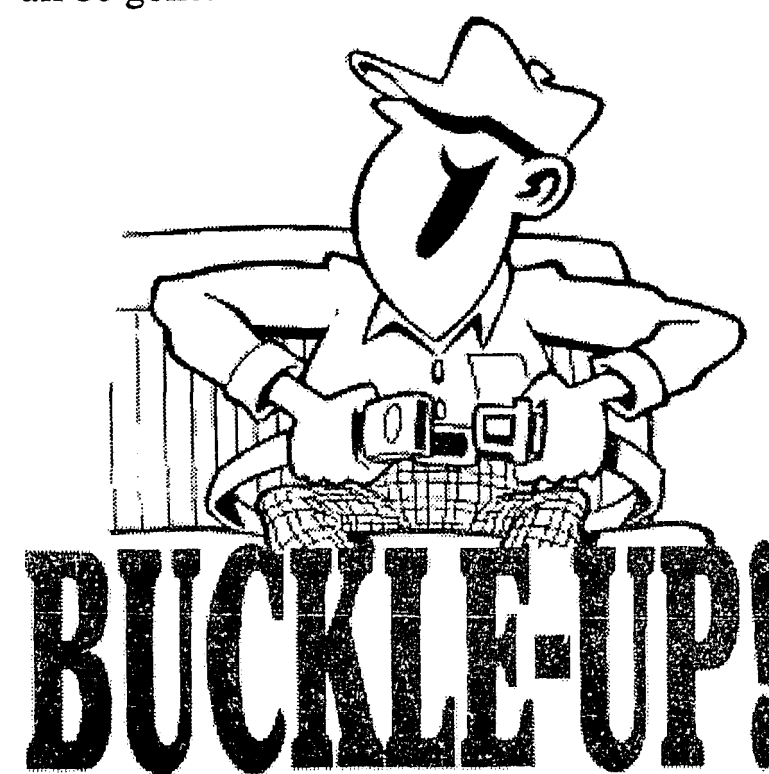
I always have lived my life as fully as I could. I always tried to treat everyone with care and respect, and make everyone feel comfortable when I was around. (OK, occasionally I embarrassed others and myself in an attempt to make people smile). I hope that I contribute to the world around me, more than just a helpful hand here and there. I hope I make a difference in someone's life. I know I can be unkind and cruel at times (my husband knows that better than anyone), and I know that I want to be forgiven if I am. I wish that I could prevent a trauma like this from happening to anyone around me, I wish that I know one ever has to feel like I do...but I can't. So instead, I can tell you this.

Love as much as possible. Smile every moment that you can, treat people fairly, as long as that is how they treat you. Do not judge people or hurt them, and if they hurt you remember that they too must have been hurt by someone, some other time. Surround

yourself with things that make you happy, and people that do too. Do something that you thought you never would, or that you wish you could, because well....I bet you can! Do not go to bed mad, or leave the house mad, even if you want to. Do not think you are in control, because you are probably not. Do not let hate be part of your vocabulary. Heal yourself. Make sure you like the "instant" you are living in and others probably will too.

Moreover, most importantly, listen close, drive very, very safely.

If you chose to read my ramblings, and my fears, and my wishes of you and myself, then I applaud you. I await the instant when all this is a memory, and I feel safe behind the wheel again. I hope if you got anything out of this, it is that you need to not take your life for granted, because in an instant it could all be gone.



Student ponders effects of last-minute work

Summer Dorr Murray
Whalesong Staff

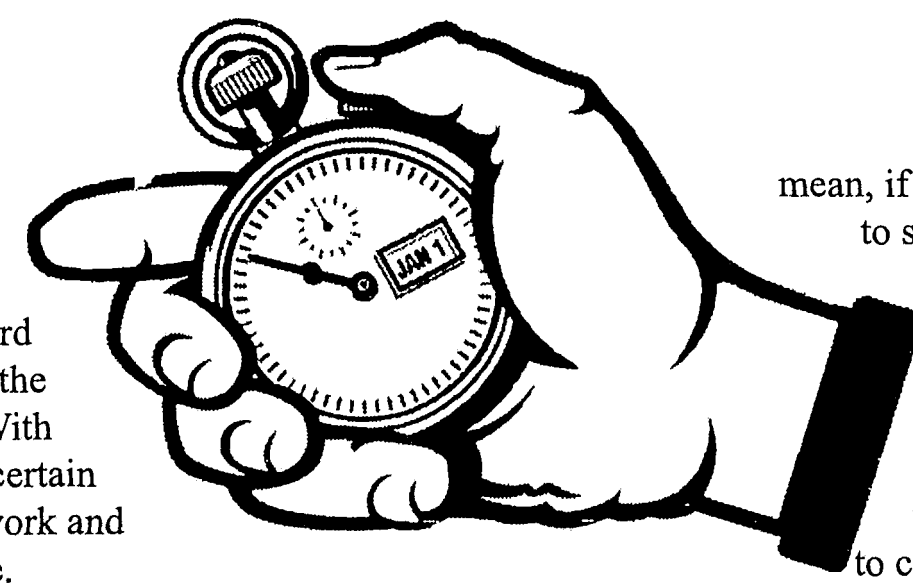
Pro-cras-ti-nate- to delay action; to delay; to put off till another day or time; to defer

I decided to insert the definition of this word because I'm sure most of you, if not all of the readers, have never experienced this act. With your workload and school schedules, I'm certain you all have planned study times around work and never put anything off until the last minute. So this article is only an effort to promote awareness that not everyone is as put together as you and to pose a few questions that suggest that procrastination may actually not be a downfall, but a highly developed method very, very few students use.

What would cause someone to procrastinate? Is it the rush one would receive while cramming for a test they knew was approaching weeks in advance? Is it because they are mentally unable to properly plan? Or could the reason be that they feel a great satisfaction of turning in the end result of a four-hour project?

"I am the worst procrastinator in the world," reveals Starr Grimm, a 3.5 grade-point-average student. "I never do anything in advance. I guess it's because I cannot seem to do the work or think about it unless I'm under pressure, otherwise there is always something else to do that seems more appealing."

Now bear with me, is there really a downside to this strategy? I



mean, if the assignment or task has all your focus for up to six consecutive hours, couldn't the end result be just as thought-out and organized as a person who spread it out over a period of two weeks?

"The more time one puts into the assignment [or] paper, the better it will be," shares Andrew Parsons, UAS junior. "I make time to do the paper, even if it means that I need to cancel daily routines sometimes. I feel that the quality is better when I take my time, that way I am able to get feedback and edit the paper before it's due."

Is that a needed sacrifice? To cancel or skip activities you would rather do? Work then play, is that how students should do it? Procrastinators do both, just in a different order—play and then work. Will a last minute student change their ways? "I will never learn, because there isn't a downfall besides the unneeded stress that you get last minute," responds Grimm.

Does a last minute student actually need to change their habits to be a better student, even if there is no apparent difference in the overall grade? "If you think you would receive the same grade regardless then go for it," concludes Parsons.

I'll leave you with Starr Grimm's theory: "At least complete and turn in your assignment, that way you won't get penalized. Even if I have to stay up until four a.m. the day before an assignment is due, I at least turned it in."

FEATURES

You've come a long way baby...Women's History Month at UAS

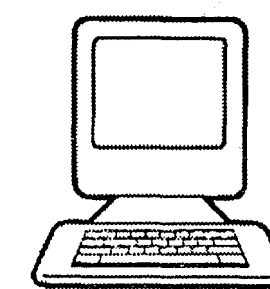
Annette Nelson-Wright
Whalesong Contributor

Looking for a way to celebrate Women's History Month but coming up short? Look no further! The answer is here! Interested in women in literature? How about a panel discussion, "A Celebration of Women Writers," in the Lake Room, March 7, from 12 - 1:30 p.m. There's also the lecture and presentation by best-selling poet Joy Harjo (see article p. 9), March 2, from 12 - 1:30 p.m. in the Lake Room and then a poetry reading from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Egan Library.

What about women and religion? We've got you covered. Michael Price will be giving a lecture, "From the Radical Reformation to Radical Feminism: Women in Religion in America" in the Lake Room Monday, March 5, from 12 - 1:30 p.m. He'll take a quick look at how women have fared in the world of religion and how the world of religion has responded. How about women and Christianity? University of Alaska at Mat-Su professor Carol Holbert will be giving a presentation Friday, March 23, in the Lake Room from 12 - 1:30 p.m. entitled, "The Devil's Gateway: A History of Women and Christianity."

Still haven't piqued your interest? What about a "Women's Health Forum" with Katy Goodwin and Michael Powell on Monday, March 19, from 12 - 1:30 p.m. in the Lake Room.

You're healthy, but you can't design and post a web page? Come to "Women and Technology - The Basics and Beyond" with local computer gurus Tia Anderson and Mona Yarnell, Wednesday, March 21, 12 - 1:30 p.m. - there'll be a "smart cart" there so you can get hands-on instruction.



What about a concert? Magdalen Hsu-Li will perform Friday, March 30, from 7 - 9 p.m. in the Student Activities Center (SAC). Free if you are a SAC member, otherwise it's \$5.

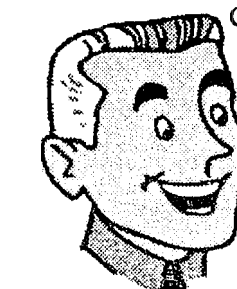


Interested in politics? Come to the "Women and Politics: Barriers and Opportunities in the 21st Century" talk on Monday, March 26 from 3 - 4:30 p.m. with female legislators.

This is all great, you're thinking, but how about saving me some money? I'm so glad you brought that up!! Come into the cafeteria on Thursday, March 8, and if you're a woman you get a 28 percent discount on your purchase, since currently women make approximately 72 cents for every \$1 a man makes. So make the most of wage discrimination and eat at the cafeteria on Thursday, March 8.



What do the men think about all of this? Come to the panel discussion, "Men's Perspectives on the Women's Movement," 12 - 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 22. Hear what faculty members Don Cecil, Robin Walz, Jonathan Anderson and UAS student Mike Maas think.



At a Glance: a calendar of Women's History Month events

2 Friday, 12-1:30, UAS Lake Room. **Joy Harjo Presentation/Q&A.**



Monday, 12-1:30, UAS Lake Room. **"Radical Reformation to Radical Feminism"**



Thursday, 12-2, UAS Cafeteria. Women's lunch special (28% discount for women).



Friday, 7-9 p.m., UAS Egan Library. **Joy Harjo Poetry reading/Lecture.**



Wednesday, 12-1:30, UAS Lake Room. **Women writers panel presentation.**



Thursday, 4:30-6:30, **Silverbow Backroom Restaurant.** Int'l Women's Day Celebration.

Look for more in the next Whalesong

Student and Community Submissions

Student and community submissions of art, photography, written work, and personal experiences are both welcomed and encouraged at The Whalesong. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, grammar, and taste, and must include a name and means of contact for verification. If the submission is to be returned, please include an address and daytime phone number. Send submissions to 11120 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801, jyw@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Maurant Bldg.

Misanthrope dedication, work amazes local student

M.J. Booth
Whalesong Staff

Every summer the Whalesong office in the Maurant Building is transformed into the headquarters of the Bread Loaf School of English. Each fall the staff returns to a slightly altered office, which leads to some minor grumbling. Finally, this reporter was able to see first hand the product of a student that spent her summer here working towards a degree in theater. I also learned that those who volunteer for community theater are excellent at multi-tasking.

Taylor McKenna, a former UAS-Ketchikan adjunct faculty, local public school teacher, wife and mother of two returned to Ketchikan Community Theater to direct after taking some time off to have a baby. Her choice of plays was somewhat easy to choose because she had spent plenty of time working with Michael Cadden on *The Misanthrope* during her studies at Bread Loaf this past summer. The real challenge came when she had to modernize the 17th-century Moliere play and relate it to her community.

The play is predominantly verbal, so changing the setting from a 17th-century parlor to a more physically active base was a priority, because in today's world the viewing public is used to more action. McKenna had played around with two different settings. One choice was the First City's (a local nickname for Ketchikan) art community and the other was a local gym. In the

end, the local gym scene worked best with the possibilities for physical movement as well as the eminent excuse for all Ketchikanites to escape the torrential rain that is part of the daily lifestyle in S.E. Alaska. (More so in Ketchikan than anywhere else.) Two other incentives for the gym scene had to do with the female lead and the opportunity for a dance routine. Making Celimene (played by Bonnie Sullivan) the owner of a gym brought the roles of women into a more modern light and a wonderful opening dance routine (choreographed by Sherry Hewitt) made for a splendid and engaging opening act.

McKenna also specified professions for each character, which allowed for more local connections. For example, a Taquan Air pilot, a fisherman and a fishing resort owner all have endearing associations with S.E. Alaska. The competitiveness and vanity that are often present in many gym atmospheres is just one more link to the public that McKenna's directorial interpretation brings forth. "Everybody is a little vain, that's why people should connect to it," states McKenna.

Another step towards rejuvenating the play came about in toning down the formalities in language particularly with regards to titles. Instead she substituted epithets such as 'Al,' 'Phil' and 'Mimi.' All other discourse was to all intents and purposes unaltered. Juggling between her other jobs and the play was a very time-consuming effort, but McKenna says, "[It's] my passion, I love to do this." McKenna directs at least one play each year for the First City Players. We'll look forward to seeing more of her talents in the years to come.

Rod Landis, an assistant professor of English for UAS-Ketchikan was also involved in the play. He played Philinte, Alceste's friend and lawyer. Landis has been involved with the First City Players since the mid-90s and has appeared in several other plays. He has served for four years on the Board of Governors for the theater. Landis has also managed to incorporate his theater experience with his UAS position. He organized a dramatic performance for a sexual harassment workshop. Commenting on his presentation, colleague Gail Klein said, "[It was] really nice and a real neat way to present information." Basically, Landis did a scene about a sexual harassment accusation of a professor. Klein was impressed with how Landis was able to show both sides of a difficult situation effectively. The workshop was for faculty and staff, but some students also participated in the presentation.

Ed Jones, an UAS-Ketchikan student also had a part in



Photo by M.J. Booth
The Misanthrope cast in their opening dance routine.

The Misanthrope. Jones played Acaste, one of Climene's suitors. He was essentially new to theater, except for a play that he wrote, directed and starred in when he was 13 years old. Before this more recent acting endeavor, Jones was usually a member of the audience. As well as being a long-time resident of Ketchikan, he is a husband and a father. After a 30-year departure from writing he decided to brush up on his skills and returned to school at UAS-Ketchikan. According to the play program, Jones' motto is: "Play at your work and work at your play."

While in Ketchikan I was able to attend several of the play rehearsals. This was an incredibly eye-opening experience; to see what goes into the production of one play is mind-boggling. Each cast member as a volunteer was



Photo by M.J. Booth
Rod Landis uses weights as props in a verbal performance.

able to organize their home and work lives and play participation exceptionally. Line memorization in itself is an extreme undertaking. Add to that place setting, further stage direction, lighting, sound, costumes, props, ticket sales and advertising (etc.) and you have the makings of a full-time job. The involvement of characters is also a fascinating manifestation and one that I was able to witness in just three rehearsals.

My favorite character was that of Climene and I think I felt this way

FOR PEOPLE WHO THINK THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN A PAYCHECK.



If you're a young man or woman looking at a humdrum future, there's a challenging alternative—the Army. Not just the more than 200 skills to choose from, but the lifestyle. The chance to travel, to become fit and trim and exercise your mental muscles, too. To do things you didn't think you could do. To be proud of yourself and your country.

And you get a pretty good paycheck, too.

907-790-8501

ARMY. BE ALL YOU CAN BE.
www.goarmy.com

Poet and performer Joy Harjo comes to UAS campus

Annette Nelson-Wright
Whalesong Contributor

Best-selling author and performer Joy Harjo will be coming to the UAS-Juneau campus for a lunchtime presentation and a poetry reading to kick off Women's History Month. Harjo is the author of several books including *Reinventing the Enemy's Language*, *The Spiral Memory*, *In Mad Love and War*, *Secrets From the Center of the World*, *She Had Some Horses*, and her latest release, *The Woman Who Fell From The Sky*. Harjo plays saxophone with her band Poetic Justice and has opened for the Indigo Girls as well as performing on the same bills as Bonnie Raitt, Toad the Wet Sprocket and Robbie Robertson.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, she is an enrolled member of the Muskogee Tribe. She received her B.A. in 1976 from the University of New Mexico and her M.F.A. from the University of Iowa. She has been a lecturer at Arizona State University, an instructor at the Institute of American Indian Arts, an Associate Professor at the University of Arizona and currently holds full professor status at the University of New Mexico.



Harjo has received numerous awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writers Circle of The Americas, and has received the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1997. Her book *In Mad Love and War* received the American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation in 1991. She also received the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America for best book of poetry in 1991. She has also held National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowships in 1992 and 1978. Additionally, she received the American Indian Distinguished Achievement in the Arts Award in 1990.

Harjo will give a presentation with a question and answer period Friday, March 2, from 12:00p.m. to 1:30p.m. in the UAS Maurant Building Lake Room and poetry reading and lecture March 2, from 7:00p.m. to 9:00pm in the UAS Egan Library.

Photo courtesy of Joy Harjo

MISANTHROPE from page 8

because I loved to dislike her calculating personality. She gives nice girls like Eliante (played by Michelle Reed) a bad name, but Eliante could hold her own. Tricia Funk did a superb job as Arsinoe, the uptight spinster, and the hint of an English accent enhances her character even more. On the whole, the entire cast along with the director and choreographer made good use of the slightly petite Main Street Theatre stage and they all performed up to par.

Although I was only able to attend the dress rehearsal I felt the director did an excellent job at taking a somewhat 'dated' play and not only bring it up to speed time-wise but to add that extra special touch of relating it to her audience. She took the idea of audience analysis to the next level and she did it through the medium of a play. The cast

members worked well together and pulled off a challenging enterprise by taking a rhyming script and delivering it as if all people talked like that on a regular basis. The physical aspects moved smoothly during each scene and never distracted from the verbiage.

Susan Fisher, a person who saw the final polished version had this to say about the play, "[The director did a] wonderful job. [It was an] excellent contemporary adaptation of an age old tale." Fisher went on to discuss how believable the play was in a modern-day Ketchikan. Among the many things she enjoyed about the play she especially liked the way that lines from such a long time ago could still work in a present-day setting like a gym. "It's a cute story about jealousy, conniving and manipulation which are all things that everyone can relate to," Fisher concluded.

On my part, the whole experience has inspired me to look more into the theater. Who knows, maybe I'll have a minor role in some play production in the future?

The next play to run in Ketchikan will be Margaret Edison's play *Wit*. Elizabeth Nelson will be directing and those of you interested in Ketchikan's Annual Humanities conference will be happy to know that *Wit* is the topic of this year's conference.



Photo by M.J. Booth
Acaste and Clitandre argue over Climene.

You're Invited!

To A

MARDI GRAS

Live Music!

Party!

Join the celebration
at the SAC

Saturday, March 3
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Games!
&
Prizes

Enjoy some
CAJUN
FOOD

Free for SAC
members
\$5 for general
admission

Advertise in The Whalesong

Our prices are
LOW!

TAKE OUT A
BIG AD

(Full page or 1/2 page)

Don't worry-you can
afford it!

To place an ad or for more information contact:

Marla Jean Booth
Advertising Manager

Phone: (907)465-6434

Fax: (907)465-6399

e-mail: jvwale@uas.alaska.edu

Mailing address:

The Whalesong
11120 Glacier Highway
Juneau, Alaska
99801-8680

Sports

Quick Picks

Michael Waltrip wins his first Daytona 500, but the victory is overshadowed by the death of a legend (see story)

UAA hockey falls to 9th place despite a tie and 5-3 win over Minnesota-Duluth Feb. 16 & 17

UAF Nanooks also claim 9th place in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association, with a win and a loss over the weekend to Miami (OH)

Martina Hingis claimed the 37th singles title of her career in the Qatar Open tennis tournament

Tennessee Lady Vols replace Notre Dame in the top spot of the Associated Press poll in the WNBA

All 12 Major League Soccer teams head to Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. Mar. 14 for 2 weeks of training and an 18-game tournament

Joe Durant finished first in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic (golf) with a score of 36 under par. Even crazier, Jerry Kelly finished 20 under, and tied for 26th!!

NASCAR rules won't change as result of accident

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida — Daytona 500 winner Michael Waltrip Monday said recent changes in NASCAR rules to create tighter races had nothing to do with the crash that killed legendary driver Dale Earnhardt.

Instead, Waltrip said, Sunday's accident was a display of racers' competitive spirit in the final lap, "guys just wanting to get to the checkered" flag. "When the checkered's waving, nobody is going to let off," said Waltrip, a member of Earnhardt's racing team.

"It was just hard racing on the last lap," Waltrip said at a new conference. "I think Dale was doing what he loved to do, and he was coming for the checkered."

NASCAR recently made aerodynamic changes to its vehicles in an effort to create closer, more exciting races. The 200,000 fans at the speedway and a national television audience witnessed 50 lead changes before the crash, a reflection of the tightness of the race.

NASCAR officials insisted Monday safety is a top priority of their drivers and that they are always studying ways to improve safety precautions.

At the same time, officials were still trying to cope with the death of what many called NASCAR's greatest driver. "This is a tough period in

NASCAR history. I can't think of anytime that's been more tough," NASCAR chairman Bill France said. NASCAR president Mike Helton added, "Dale Earnhardt was the driver for NASCAR."

Facing tough questions about NASCAR safety, Helton said the stock-car circuit is "always investigating safety issues" and will continue to do so. But he said it would be premature to implement widespread changes immediately. "We're simply not going to react for the sake of reacting," he said. "We will do it when it's the right thing to do."

Among the safety procedures NASCAR is looking at is whether concrete walls should be replaced with a better material to further protect drivers and fans in the stands. Officials also recommended drivers try out the Head And Neck Safety (HANS) device, a fixed restraining mechanism that supports the head, neck and shoulder and protects the neck and base of the skull. Many drivers have said the HANS is too bulky and cumbersome, especially in crashes where they need to get out quickly.

"Safety is our No. 1 concern," Helton said. "NASCAR recommends drivers to try it and to work with the developers of it to perfect (the device) for stock car racing."

An autopsy performed on Earnhardt determined he died of

blunt trauma to his head. Dr. Steve Bohannon, a doctor at the scene immediately after the crash, said the HANS device most likely wouldn't have helped when Earnhardt's car hit the wall going 180 mph. "The brain is injured, bruised, torn," he said. "And with an impact of Dale's nature, even if he had the device on, hitting the wall that fast may have resulted in the same injury."

Earnhardt's No. 3, black Monte Carlo is currently in the possession of NASCAR and crews have been checking it out to check for more clues as to what might have contributed to his death.

Outside the Mooresville, N.C.-headquarters of Dale Earnhardt Inc., fans left flowers, notes and posters of the man known as "The Intimidator" for his aggressive driving style. "A man like no other," read one sign. A similar makeshift shrine adorned the outside of the Daytona speedway in Florida.

Waltrip, while upset over the death of his friend and boss, said he knows Earnhardt is now in a better place. "My belief is that in the twinkling of an eye, you're in the presence of the Lord. And that's where I think Dale is," Waltrip said. "And so instead of patting me on the back and having a (victory) party with me, he's up there hanging out with my dad. That ain't a bad thing either."

Salaries don't guarantee on-field success in NFL

Chris Harry
Knight-Ridder Tribune

TAMPA, Fla. - The Baltimore Ravens were Super Bowl champions last season with a payroll topped by only one other NFL team: the super bust champion Washington Redskins.

The NFL Players Association released its annual payroll figures this week, and the only conclusions that can be drawn from an examination of all 31 teams is that salaries have little to do with on-field success.

The Redskins, with second-year owner Daniel Snyder shelling out huge contracts to the likes of Bruce Smith, Deion Sanders and Jeff George, spent \$92.4 million in combined salaries and bonuses.

And while Snyder's team was losing four of its last five games, finishing 8-8 and missing the playoffs, the New York Giants were overtaking the Redskins in the NFC East and advancing to the Super Bowl while spending "just" \$57.3 million.

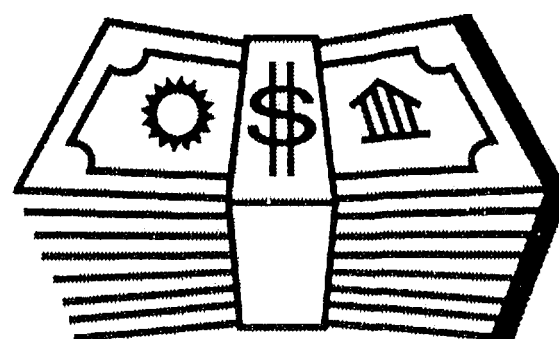
The Giants were mauled 34-7 in Super Bowl XXXV at Tampa by the Ravens and their \$90.7 million payroll.

Around the state, the Jacksonville Jaguars ranked fifth league-wide. The Jags shelled out the most cash at \$76.9 million, nudging out the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and their \$76.8 million payroll that was buoyed by the off-season acquisition of wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson. Johnson became the richest Buc in history by signing a seven-year, \$52 million contract. The Dolphins were ninth at \$72.3 million.

Of the 31 NFL teams, 20 exceeded last season's cap of \$62.2 million, including the Cincinnati Bengals, considered to be one of the league's cheapest teams. The Bengals' payroll was \$68.6 million, or \$6 million over the cap.

Of the 12 playoff teams, eight were in the top half in payroll. The Giants, Denver, Minnesota and New Orleans were the only ones in the bottom half.

The free-agent period begins March 2, and teams are supposed to be at or below the salary cap, which is expected to be \$67.4 million. The salary figures do not represent cap figures, but a team that spent a lot is liable to have more cap problems.



Entertainment

"Last Dance" surprises moviegoers

Blake Kunisch
Associated Press

Save the Last Dance has all the makings of a cliched seen-it-before type movie, and that's what I was expecting when I went to see it. I didn't expect the characters to be smart, the dialogue to be intelligent, and the story line to be anything but stereotypical and predictable - boy was I surprised.

The movie starts us off with Sara (Julia Stiles) taking a train into the city where she is going to live with her dead-beat dad. We are informed through flashbacks that her mom has just died in a car accident rushing to see if Sara will make it into Juilliard. Ballet was Sara's life, and her mom sacrificed everything for Sara to realize her dream, and when she dies on her way to see Sara, Sara feels as if she is responsible for her mother's death, and therefore won't dance any more.

Flash forward to the ghetto - Sara's now in a new school, needing to make new friends, and seemingly, the only white person there. Where most films would portray the black community doing drugs, having illegitimate babies, carrying weapons, and flunking out of school, *Save the Last Dance* doesn't go down that road, and really, it doesn't need to.

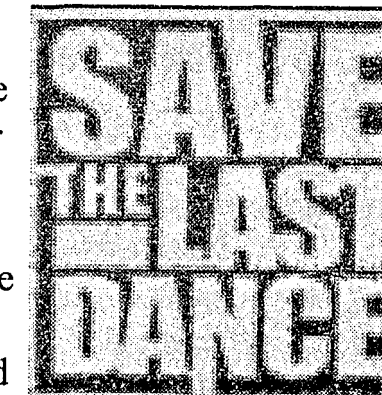
The trailer for *Save the Last Dance* really didn't make me want to see it - instead it portrayed the film as a hip-hop dance-fest geared for the teenager generation - as seen with the MTV backing, advertising, and hyping. What *Save the Last Dance* really is is an emotional story featuring intelligent dialogue rather than the mainstream crap we've had to put up with in teen films lately

Summer Dorr Murray
Whalesong staff

For those of you who enjoy a teen- or college-age romantic flick, this is a perfect movie to view. The plot centers on Sara (Julia Stiles) and her unlikely romantic relationship with Derek (Sean Patrick Thomas). Think prima ballerina meets hip-hop thug from the streets. These two form a bond based on their love of dance, though the passion has a hard time flowing with the disapproval of an ex-girlfriend, drug-dealer best friend and with the race issue constantly up in their faces.

This movie has deeper acting and character development than most of this type and for that, you don't feel lame for having enjoyed it.

(esp. Dude, Where's My Car?). The relationship between Sara and Derek (Sean Patrick Thomas) is played out nicely without the stereotypical garbage most films would insert into an interracial couple. There are tense moments between not only Sara and Derek, but also Derek and his best friend, Molakai (Fredro Starr) who just recently got out of juvenile hall and has to try and play it straight. If you're tired of the teenager-geared movies, as I am, *Save the Last Dance* is a pleasant change of pace. The story line doesn't go the way you would expect, but rather surprises you with a fresh and colorful look at ballet, racial relations, and hip-hop, all rolled into one nicely paced, interesting movie.



Preview

UAS Winterfest 2001 activities constantly through Sun. Feb 25! Look for posters around campus.

Sat. Feb.24 - Strip down and jump into UAS' annual Polar Bear Plunge at noon at the Auke Bay Dock. Warm up afterwards at the SAC BBQ.

Sat. Feb.24 - JAHc invites you to imagine "Going to Extremes," a wearable art extravaganze. The runway show and dance start at 8 p.m. at the Elks Club. Tix are \$10 for students and \$20 single.

Sat. Mar.3 - Reveal your many faces at the Mardi Gras celebration at the SAC at 8 p.m. Enjoy food, music, and games. Masquerade as lucky for the night and maybe win a prize!!

Horoscopes



Capricorn (December 22-January 20)

Key issues may involve recent social events or new changes to long-term relationships. After Thursday expect lovers or long-term friends to initiate new home ideas or romantic proposals.



Aquarius (January 21-February 19)

Some Aquarians may now experience minor conflicts with loved ones concerning family issues, romantic decisions or yesterday's roles in close relationships. Don't expect others to make emotional sense over the next few days.



Pisces (February 20-March 20)

Let romantic partners or long-term friends set the tone this week. Watch for delayed records, misinformation and revised assignments to disrupt daily duties.



Aries (March 21-April 20)

Work mates or daily companions may now need to publicly discuss recent events, policies or group projects. This is an excellent time to establish a bond with close colleagues and review common interests.



Taurus (April 21-May 20)

Expect a colleague or close friend to suddenly change their approach to ongoing projects or duties. Some Taurans may also experience new money decisions or debts. This week older relatives or roommates may be moody and distant.



Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Official duties, time schedules and project instructions will now intensify. New messages and quick decisions will change a key friendship. Social versus romantic priorities may require added discussion.



Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Expect negative social influences, misinformation or overly sensitive friends to change their attitude. Ongoing criticism and daily restrictions will now fade.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Over the next few days many Leos will begin an intense period of emotional growth in close relationships. Long standing issues of romantic reluctance or divided priorities will now slowly be solved. Single Leos may now experience powerful and potentially disruptive flirtations.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Social comfort, romantic belonging and shared goals will this week arrive in long-term relationships. Single Virgos can expect a slowly developing sensuality in a new relationship.



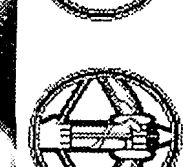
Libra (September 23-October 23)

Over the next few weeks your practical wisdom will offer solid rewards. Romantic communications may be difficult, give friends or lovers extra time to settle differences.



Scorpio (October 24-November 21)

Dreams and emotional flashes will be a strong theme this week. Contemplation and deep thought will now help clarify your long term needs and beliefs concerning key relationships.

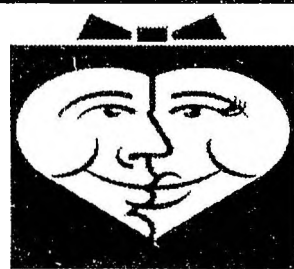


Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Early this week your creativity and sensitivity are extremely high. Sagittarians will also experience improved work relations: fading power struggles will be an important issue. Artistic and social insights are accented.

Fri. Mar.2 - Poet Joy Harjo kicks off Women's History Month with a poetry reading at Egan Library. The night is free to students and pay-as-you-can for the public, starting at 7 p.m.

Wed. Mar.7 - Marie Drake Planetarium presents a hot, free show to adult audiences about "The Sun and Other Stars" at 8 p.m.



Dr. Love and Deb Auchery

Dear Doc and Deb:

This girl that I hooked up with last year is starting to e-mail me and telling me that she can not wait to get back in town so that we can hang out again. I don't mind hanging out as friends but I don't want what we had before. How can I tell her nicely that I am not interested?

Doc says:

Since you are conversing through e-mail it may be difficult. What I would recommend is dropping hints that you are with someone else already. If you already are this won't be a problem. If she gets into town and you are single you are going to have to be up front with her and tell her you're just not interested.

Deb says:

Duh! What is your problem? When she gets here simply tell her privately, in a nice tone of voice that you want to hang out as friends, but you aren't interested in hooking up. How hard is that?

Dear Doc and Deb:

There is this guy in my circle of friends that likes me; I have no interest in him but he is always calling trying to get a ride to the bar or a party. He gives me the creeps but I am too nice to say no. What can I do to keep this weirdo from calling me?

Doc says:

You could learn to be a mean person and just say no! But if you are as kind as you say you are this may be hard. What I would do is pawn him off on one of your guy friends in the group, and have him give your mutual friend a lift wherever the social event may be. He will get the hint after a while. If he doesn't extreme tactics may be needed.

Deb says:

If he really gives you the creeps, your best bet would be to have an honest chat with him. There are subtle techniques in the art of communication that most people can understand. Make him aware that his crush is awkward for you. Emphasize the fact that you are "just friends" in normal conversation. If he doesn't get it after that then just be upfront and tell him: "I was hoping that you and I could just be friends." Or, "I don't mean to be rude, but I feel uncomfortable around you, could you please catch a ride with so-and-so." Also remember, saying 'no' does not make a person mean or not nice. It is frustrating to hear people say things like "I am too nice to say no." I am a very nice person and I say NO all the time! You have boundaries; don't be afraid to enforce them.

Dear Doc and Deb:

I like this girl but I am only in it for the sex; she's nice and sweet but is dumber than a box of rocks. I find no mental stimulation from her but the sexual stimulation is something else. What should I do?

Doc says:

I don't know what to say. I bet that Deb has some wonderful advice for you. I would bet my life on it.

Deb says:

Why should you do anything? You said right off, "I am only in it for the sex." What difference does it make what her mental capabilities are? I have to say though, that your insipid remark about her being "dumber than a box of rocks" is quite disheartening. I hope that this girl is also only in it for the sex because you don't sound all that 'deep' yourself! However, if you are interested in more from this girl then *teach* her, expand her horizons and I'll bet in the end you will have learned just as much from her.

Dear Doc and Deb:

I like this girl but I feel that I am just too wild for her. My occasional smoking and drinking that almost everyone in college participates in she looks down upon. I think if she sees the other side of me she'll lose interest and it is hard to hide my other side from her and I think I should be open with her, but I am afraid the truth may destroy everything.

Doc says:

Maybe she has a wild side that you do not know of. You must be honest with her or you will not be able to advance your friendship to the next level.

Deb says:

Some people are just not meant to be together for many different reasons. If your relationship was structured on honesty and trust than the truth cannot "destroy" anything. But, this is a small campus in a small community, do you honestly believe that she doesn't have some ideas about your so-called "wild side?" On a side note, I'm curious why you felt the need to explain, "almost everyone in college participates" in this "wild" behavior? Is that the only reason that you participate? Regardless, invite her along for a "wild" night with you, she may surprise you. But if not, at least she will be able to determine for herself whether or not this side of you is a justifiable reason to be with or without you. Keep in mind that all of your actions and experiences are part of what makes you who you are. If she chooses not to be with you because of one part of you, ask yourself if you really want to be with someone who won't accept and appreciate both the good and bad sides of the person that you are.

Cartoons courtesy of Tribune Media Services



Credit: Steve Sack



BEELER/01



Credit: Nate Beeler

Classifieds

Classified ads are \$7 for 30 words. Words of emphasis (bold, italics) are an additional 30 cents per word. Ads run for one issue of the paper. Ads are free to UAS students for personal use. Contact M.J. Booth at 465-6434, fax at 465-6399, or jywhale@uas.alaska.edu to place an ad.